for factories and boilers, which could not legitimately be clubbed together with this Department. By doing so, you get a clear profit of Rs. 1,69,984 from this Department. I worked out the above figure to show that it is possible to improve the status of officers in this Department. The necessity of keeping up the status of the judiciary, so as to enable them to discharge their duties without fear or favour, is apparent. A glance at the scale of pay allowed to the judiciary in Travancore and British India would show us that the present condition of the judiciary within the State is anything but satisfactory. In this connection, it may not be out of place to observe that, whereas we assess court-fee at 6¼ per cent of the suit valuation, in Travancore it is only 5 per cent. No enlightened Government should insist on making a profit by the administration of justice, for it cannot on any account be considered to be a commercial concern.

## Agriculture and Panchayats.

Next, Sir, I shall deal with the Department of Agriculture and Panchayats. This is an infant Department of the State. But it appears that it has been born an orphan. It has been bemoaning the loss of its parents; but there is no one to give heed to it. I mean the Department is not deriving as much support and encouragement as it deserves. Time was when our grandfathers in the country parts used to say that Government exists only for collecting tax. But, thanks to the enlightened policy of the Darbar, we have been endowed with an institution for the reorganisation and reconstruction of our villages, an institution which has no parallel in the adjoining States. But, as I said before, its growth has become stunted. The Special Finance Committee has been too parsimonious in its allotment for this Department. It has arrived at its figures, as usual, on the basis of the average for the preceding years. It is just like providing future rations for a boy on the basis of the average food he has taken, while he was a child. I would give you a few instances to show that the allotment to the Panchayats is very poor indeed. The Panjal Panchayat has sent in a budget estimate for Rs. 9,926 for 1104. But we find that only Rs. 1,657 has been allotted for it. Again the Kariyannoor Panchayat has sent in a budget estimate for Rs. 6,660 in 1104. But only Rs. 1,356 has been allotted for it, in the present preliminary budget. You will further find from the budget estimates of the Panchayats that several original works have been recurring items in the Panchayat budgets for a number of years. It is also to be noted that, whereas the Public Works Department spends about Rs. 500 and Rs. 600 for annual maintenance of roads, per mile, we find

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that only a tenth of this amount is provided for opening new Panchayat roads.

I would, therefore, suggest that the scope of the Panchayats be widened, and a more sympathetic policy adopted in its administration. The Panchayats are hereafter to be made self-sufficient units in social organisation. They have to be provided with buildings to transact their business, Anchal Offices, agricultural depots and allopathic or Ayurvedic dispensaries. Every Panchayat should maintain a stud bull for the improvement of the cattle breed of the country. For the efficient administration of work, every Panchayat must be provided with a clerk and a peon. I believe these matters would engage the consideration of the Government.

## Stamps and Anchal.

I now proceed to the Department of Stamps and Anchal. Here I reiterate the suggestions of the Finance Committee to have the stamps manufactured locally, and thus save a good deal of expenditure. The Anchal charges are very excessive, when we consider that the extent of activities of the Department is very small. Further it is deplorable that in most of the villages in the State we have Anchal service only twice a week. More Anchal Offices have to be started, at least one for every Panchayat. The surplus income from this Department would certainly justify us in making it more useful to the public.

## Public Works Department.

Now, Sir, I come to the Public Works Department. Indeed it would be with feelings of sorrow mingled with surprise that you would compare the conditions of the roads in the State with the amounts allotted for the annual maintenance of these roads. This Department is eating up about 20 per cent of the revenues of the State. The amount budgetted for 1104 goes even beyond the expectations of the Finance Committee by Rs. 3,80,800. I do not know how this unprecedented increase could be justified or accounted for.

If we go through the detailed estimate for roads, you will find that, throughout the State, provision is made for the maintenance of the road at a rate varying from Rs. 175 to Rs. 820 per mile. Besides this high figure, you find that a sum of Rs. 42,251 is allotted for the special renewal of roads. Under this head we find in Appendix B pages 2 to 9 of the preliminary budget round sums of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000 being allotted for special renewals of roads. The particulars of the roads to be renewed are not even mentioned. If, as a matter of fact, the roads in the State are being properly maintained, and the amounts for the annual maintenance are being expended, I fail to see why and how special renewal to the roads becomes

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